

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims pending

- At time of the Action: Claims 1 and 7-16.
- After this Response: Claims 1 and 7-16.

Currently Amended claims: Claims 1, 9 and 16.

Currently Canceled claims: None.

New claims: None.

1. (Currently Amended) In a command line operating environment, a computer-executable method comprising:

executing each command on a command line in a first execution mode or in an alternate execution mode, wherein executing the command in the alternate execution mode occurs when the command on the command line includes an instruction, the instruction comprising a call to a method provided by the command line operating environment to execute in the alternate execution mode, the alternate execution mode being provided by the command line operating environment such that the command line operating environment provides extended functionality to execute the command and the command being executed on the command line does not incorporate code for extending functionality to execute the command in the alternate execution mode;

wherein the instruction to execute in the alternate execution mode also comprises a switch, and wherein executing the command in the alternate execution mode further occurs when the command line includes the switch indicating the

alternate execution mode, and wherein the alternate execution mode visually displays simulated results of executing the command.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The computer-executable method of claim 1, wherein the switch comprises “whatif”.

8. (Previously Presented) The computer-executable method of claim 1, wherein the instruction comprises a call to a method provided by the command line operating environment.

9. (Currently Amended) At least one computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method, comprising:

receiving a command line operative by a command line operating environment, the command line including a command that directs the performance of a task by the command line operating environment;

determining by the command line operating environment if a parameter is present on the command line that is associated with a simulation mode;

if the parameter is present, simulating the performance of the task by the command line operating environment such that the command line operating environment provides extended functionality to execute the command and the command being executed on the command line does not incorporate code for simulating the performance of the task to be performed by the command line operating environment; and

visually displaying the results of the simulation by the command line operating environment.

10. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the parameter comprises a switch.

11. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the switch comprises “whatif”.

12. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the task comprises a stand-alone executable command.

13. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the task comprises a pipeline of executable commands, each executable command operating in a separate process.

14. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the task comprises a pipeline of executable commands, each executable command operating in the same process.

15. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein each executable command comprises an instantiated class.

16. (Currently Amended) A system that provides a command line operating environment, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory, the memory being allocated for a plurality of computer-executable instructions which are loaded into the memory for execution by the processor, the computer-executable instructions performing a method comprising:

executing each command entered on a command line, wherein if the command on the command line includes an instruction to execute the command using extended functionality provided by the command line operating environment, executing the command using the extended functionality, wherein the instruction comprises a call to a method provided by the command line operating environment;

wherein the command line operating environment provides the extended functionality such that the command being executed on the command line does not incorporate code for extending functionality; and

wherein the extended functionality comprises visually displaying simulated results of executing the command.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)